

Appl. No. 10/511,475
Amendment and/or Response
Reply to Office action of 8 June 2006

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Amendments to the Specification:

SEP 08 2006

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 5 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Another object of the invention is to provide a surface illumination device and a display device using it, which can improve an efficiency of utilizing light.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 29 with the following rewritten paragraph:

In FIG. 3, light L0 that propagates inside the light guide plate 1 enters the reflecting prism face 1S without being polarized at all here. It is possible to assume that the light L0 has its s-polarized light and p-polarized light of the same amount of light. At the reflecting prism face 1S, part of this incident light L0 is reflected and the rest of the incident light L0 passes through the reflective prism face 1. However, the amount of s-polarized light is greater than the amount of p-polarized light for the reflected light, while the amount of p-polarized light is greater than the amount of s-polarized light for the transmitted light. This is because the incident light is all reflected within a range of angles of incidence equal to or greater than a critical angle (approximately 42° when the light guide plate 1 is of PMMA (polymethyl methacrylate)) as it is, whereas the reflectance of the s-polarized light component is generally greater than the reflectance of the p-polarized light component (the transmittance of the p-polarized light component is greater than the transmittance of the s-polarized light component) within a range of angles of incidence less than the critical angle.

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Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 15 with the following rewritten paragraph:

On the other hand, the direction of electric vector's vibration of the s-polarized light of the reflecting light is determined by a three-dimensional direction in which in which the reflecting prism face 1S is inclined at the point of incidence and a propagation (progress) direction of the incident light L0. This is because the reflecting light is in a plane of incidence including the incident normal N determined by the inclination direction of the face 1S and an incident light ray.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 14, line 8 with the following rewritten paragraph:

There have been mentioned above, the configuration with a polarizing plate provided on the bottom side of the light guide plate and the configuration with a polarizing plate provided on the side light section. One of the features of either configuration is that the polarization axis of the polarizing plate used is matched with the inclination direction of the reflective prism face based on the propagation direction of the light incident on the reflecting prism face 1S of the light guide plate. Therefore, confining the propagation directions of the light within a certain range, or more preferably, allowing light in the predetermined propagation direction to mainly propagate through the light guide plate will lead to more enhanced and reliable effects of the matching.

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